

SUBJECT:	ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING
DIRECTORATE:	CHIEF EXECUTIVE AND TOWN CLERK
REPORT AUTHOR:	CAROLYN WHEATER – CITY SOLICITOR

1. Purpose of Report

- 1.1 To determine not to hold the Annual General Meeting in May 2020, in accordance with the powers given to Local Authorities under new regulations.

2. Background

- 2.1 The Local Authorities and Police and Crime Panels (Coronavirus) (Flexibility of Local Authority and Police and Crime Panel Meetings) (England and Wales) Regulations 2020 (“the regs”) came into force on the 4th April 2020, under powers conferred by section 78 of the Coronavirus Act 2020.
- 2.2 The regs apply to local authority meetings that are required to be held, or held, before the 7th May 2021, and are drafted to enable Local Authorities to properly function during the coronavirus crisis.
- 2.3 The Local Government Act 1972 requires Local Authorities to hold their AGM’s in either March, April or May of each year. Part 6 of the regs enables local authorities to disapply this requirement.
- 2.4 This therefore means that the Council has no obligation to hold the AGM at all this year and can instead defer this to May 2021. In this case all current appointments would continue until the next AGM.
- 2.5 The regs do allow for other options of the AGM to be held remotely in May 2020, or to defer a decision to hold the meeting until the current crisis enables meetings to return to their normal format.

3. Postponement of AGM

- 3.1 Out of the three potential options in relation to holding the AGM, it would seem the most prudent course of action would be not to hold the AGM this year.
- 3.2 It is not considered feasible (nor entirely fair to the incoming Mayor) to hold the AGM remotely. In relation to holding the meeting date in abeyance until the crisis is over, this is also considered not ideal. There are no guarantees as to when meetings could take place as normal and would then cause unnecessary complications of how long the Mayor’s tenure would be and the fairness of this.

4. Elections

- 4.1 The regulations have also postponed the local elections (and Police and Crime Commissioner elections) from the 7th May 2020 to the ordinary day of election in 2021.
- 4.2 For councillors this means that, a councillor who would otherwise retire on the 4th day after the ordinary day of election in 2020 will instead retire on the 4th day after the ordinary day of election in 2021.
- 4.3 For those councillors elected in 2021, as a result of the postponement, their term of office will be three years rather than four years, ending in 2024.

5. Organisational Impacts

- 5.1 Finance (including whole life costs where applicable)
There are no financial implications arising from this report.
- 5.2 Legal Implications including Procurement Rules
As outlined in the report.
- 5.3 Equality, Diversity and Human Rights
The Public Sector Equality Duty means that the Council must consider all individuals when carrying out their day-to-day work, in shaping policy, delivering services and in relation to their own employees.

It requires that public bodies have due regard to the need to:

- Eliminate discrimination
- Advance equality of opportunity
- Foster good relations between different people when carrying out their activities

6. Risk Implications

- 6.1 As outlined in paragraph 3.2 of the report.

7. Recommendation

- 7.1 That Council determines not to hold the Annual General Meeting in May 2020, and to agree that current appointments will continue until the Annual General Meeting 2021.

Is this a key decision? No

Do the exempt information categories apply? No

Does Rule 15 of the Scrutiny Procedure Rules (call-in and urgency) apply? No

How many appendices does the report contain?

None

List of Background Papers:

None